General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.35/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/165. Emergency assistance to Belize

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993 and 49/22 A of 2 December 1994,

Having been made aware of the extensive damage caused by powerful hurricane Keith during its landfall and passage through Belize from 1 to 3 October 2000,

Mindful of the human suffering caused by the displacement of thousands of people due to the loss of homes,

Aware of the devastating effect that the continuing emergency, due to flooding, is having on the infrastructure of the country, its agricultural and fisheries sectors and the delivery of health and social services,

Noting the enormous efforts required to alleviate the devastation caused by this natural disaster,

Cognizant of the efforts of the Government and people of Belize to relieve the suffering of the victims of hurricane Keith,

Conscious of the rapid response being made by the Government of Belize, the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief,

Underlining the importance of efforts aimed at strengthening early warning, prevention and preparedness mechanisms for natural disasters and measures to strengthen capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, with an emphasis on risk reduction,

Aware that the extent of the disaster and its medium-term and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the Government and people of Belize, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to facilitate the transition from the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas to the process of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and people of Belize;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief assistance to Belize;

3. *Urges* Member States, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Belize;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Belize in identifying medium-term and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, as well as to help with the efforts towards rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas in Belize;

5. *Encourages* the Government of Belize, in conjunction with relevant partners, further to develop strategies aimed at preventing and mitigating natural disasters;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue mobilizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Belize.

85th plenary meeting
14 December 2000